

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 13 August 2006

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. This broadcast can also be heard on Echolink by connecting to ZS6FCS or to [www.zs6mrk.org](http://www.zs6mrk.org) and following the indicated links. This, and previous bulletins, can also be downloaded from the web site of the SARL i.e. [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za). You can read or download previous bulletins from there and also subscribe to receive future bulletins by email.

This transmission is by Hans, ZS6KR, on 145,725 and 7,066 MHz from Pretoria with a relay on 3 695 kHz. (Other news readers, please change to suit).

In the news today:

SPACE PHYSICIST PIONEER VAN ALLEN DIES AT 91

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE AND LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND 19 to 20  
AUGUST 2006

TWO YAESU HAND-HELDS TO BE WON AT RTA

You are listening to ZS6SRL. Stay tuned for more detail on these and other important and interesting news items.

SPACE PHYSICIST PIONEER VAN ALLEN DIES AT 91

James Van Allen, a pioneer space physicist who helped propel the United States into the space race and discovered the Earth-circling radiation belts that now bear his name, died Wednesday 9 August at age 91. Van Allen died of heart failure at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, said Stephen Pradarelli, the spokesman for the University of Iowa, where Allen has worked for years.

Van Allen helped blaze the trail into space for America in the panicky weeks after the launch of the Russian satellite Sputnik on Oct. 4, 1957. Four months after Sputnik, America launched its first successful space mission, Explorer 1, which carried in its payload a small Geiger counter developed by Van Allen. The instrument detected two belts of intense radiation surrounding Earth, later named as the Van Allen Belts. The belts spawned a whole new field of research known as magnetospheric physics, an area of study that now involves more than 1 000 investigators in more than 20 countries. The discovery also made Van Allen a scientific celebrity. In 1959, Van Allen appeared on the cover of Time. He also received numerous awards, including the nation's highest scientific award, the National Medal of Science. "He was one of the most important people in the entire area of space science," said Thomas Zurbuchen, professor of space science and aerospace engineering at the University of Michigan.

The folksy, pipe-smoking physicist, called “Van” by friends, retired from full-time teaching in 1985. But he continued to write, oversee research, counsel students and monitor data gathered by satellites.

Though he was an early advocate of a concerted national space program, Van Allen was a strong critic of most manned space projects, once dismissing the U.S. proposal for a manned space station “speculative and ... poorly founded.”

#### INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE AND LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND 19 to 20 AUGUST 2006

The Lighthouse Weekend takes place over the weekend of 19 & 20 August 2006.

Full details can be found on the website: [www.illw.net](http://www.illw.net). This website gives all the information required and is also where you should register your station as a participant in the event.

The Lighthouse Services of the National Ports Authority have authorised South African amateur radio operators to make use of their facilities and have requested that Amateur Radio Clubs and/or single operators in the RSA should liaise with the appointed official in their area.

The following people should be contacted:

KZN - Phezile Malata, 082 614 7647; Western Cape (Port Nolloth to Mossel Bay) - Robin Poggenpoel, 083 388 9502; Eastern Cape (Cape St Francis to Mbashe) - Chris Deysel, 083 460 2058.

#### TWO YAESU HAND-HELDS TO BE WON AT RTA

Attend the Radio Technology in Action Day at the National Amateur Radio Centre on 19 August and you stand to win one of two Yaesu VHF hand-held transceivers as part of the attendance prize. Activity starts at 08:30 with registration followed by an action packed programme that will take you to many new aspects of Amateur Radio. Visit the SARL website at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) for the full programme or send your fax number or email address to [armi@sarl.org.za](mailto:armi@sarl.org.za) and a programme will be faxed or mailed to you. Some of the hi-tech lectures include “Software Defined radio, D-Star a new revolutionary approach and all about propagation research. If you live in a complex, find out about antennas for restricted spaces or relive the days of Marconi. With summer around the corner learn more about lightning and surge protection or explore with SA AM-SAT what goes on under and above the ionosphere. If CW is your passion, learn how to send 20 words per minute with your PC. For the youth there is a special Youth Forum. So much to enjoy at the SARL RTA! Saturday 19 August from 08:30 - 16:00!

#### WANT TO BUILD A TWO BAND CW TRANCEIVER?

Last year the South African Amateur Radio Development Trust ran a competition for a low power 20 and 40 CW transceiver. The competition was won by Hannes Coetzee ZS6BZP. He called his entry SOTA-1. The judges

made some recommendations which Hannes has implemented. Hannes has produced the transceiver in kit form complete with cabinet. Full details, the circuit, description and pictures are available on the Trust website at [www.amateurradio.org.za](http://www.amateurradio.org.za).

#### TAKE YOUR HAND-HELD TO WORK ON FRIDAY 18 AUGUST

Friday 18 August is “take your hand-held transceiver to work” day. Demonstrate amateur radio to your colleagues at work and show them the excitement of amateur radio. In Gauteng the Magalies repeater on 145,750 will have an active link to echolink and in Kwazulu-Natal the Highway Amateur Radio Club has a permanent link to IRLP on node number is 8300. It is operational on 439,025 MHz in and around Durban. The repeater receiver is on 431,425 MHz (ie minus 7,60 MHz).

Radio Amateurs who are at home on Friday are requested to be active on the local repeater. You can do much to promote amateur radio.

If you would like to issue a media release to your local media, please send a request to [armi@sarl.org.za](mailto:armi@sarl.org.za) or send the editor’s email address.

#### RADIO CHINA VIOLATE THE AMATEUR BANDS

The Firedragon Jammer from Hainan Island, China, is still shaking and rattling on exclusive Amateur Radio frequency 14 260 kHz. It is also heard on 18 160 kHz. The IARUMS groups in various countries around the world have lodged complaints to their authorities. It is not clear what Radio China’s objective is. It is however suspected that it is jamming some other radio station which is also illegal on those frequencies.

The SARL is in the process of adding its voice of complaint.

#### CLUB NEWS

##### BOLAND ARC TO WORK FROM THE L’AGULHAS LIGHTHOUSE

The Boland Amateur Radio Club is going to take part in the International Lighthouse Weekend. The club station with the callsign ZS1BAK/L will be active from the lighthouse at L’Agulhas. The L’Agulhas lighthouse is the most southerly lighthouse in Africa. The station will mainly be active on HF phone.

##### THE MIDLANDS ARC AGM

The Midlands ARC held its AGM and 10th Birthday Party on July 15th 2006. The meeting was well attended and the following new committee was elected. ZS5MQ, OM Bert: Chairman and Clubhouse Manager; ZR5ZS, OM Willem: PRO, Social Events and Assistant Clubhouse Manager; ZS5RK, OM Rod: Treasurer and Correspondence Secretary; ZS5BLY, OM Wessel: Vice Chairman, Editor of Hams Haywire News, RAE and Data Bank; ZS5BGV, OM Mike: Minute Secretary; ZS5CID, OM Craig: Repeaters and VHF; ZR5S, OM Shaun: VHF and Digital Modes; ZS5MRS, OM Robin: National Bulletin Reader.

We wish them a happy, harmonious and productive term of office.

#### PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP reports that solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to active levels on 24 and 28 August. The expected Effective Sun Spot number for the coming week will be less than 5.

20 m and 40 m will provide best opportunities for DX. There is a possibility of weak 20 m openings towards the East from about 08:00 CAT and 40 m from 18:00. From about 18:00, 20 m may open towards Europe. There is a possibility of very short 20 m openings towards the West Coast of the USA at about 16:00, otherwise conditions are going to be very challenging towards the USA.

For the CW enthusiasts it may also be worth monitoring 10 MHz during hours of darkness.

Please visit [www.spaceweather.co.za](http://www.spaceweather.co.za) for further information.

#### DIARY OF EVENTS

17 August - Hand-held to work day; 19 August - RTA day at the NARC; 19 and 20 August - Lighthouses on the air; 2 September - West Rand Club Flea Market; 14 September - Closing date for entries for the October RAE; 7 October - East Rand Flea market 19 October - End of year RAE.

SARL News depends on clubs and individuals for news items of importance and interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution will reach the SARL News team, is to place it in [www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp) not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It will be appreciated if you will do it in both Afrikaans and English.

The SARL also invites all listeners to listen to the program Amateur Radio Mirror International this Sunday morning at 10:00 CAT on 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area with relays on 7 082, 7 205 and 17 695 kHz. Audio is also streamed on [www.zs6mrk.org](http://www.zs6mrk.org) and on Echolink from ZS6FCS as for this bulletin. A repeat transmission takes place on Mondays at 21:00 on 3 215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor the ARMI transmissions on the non-amateur frequencies.

You have been listening to a news bulletin by the South African Radio League which was compiled by Gustav ZS6BWN.

A prosperous week to all, 73.

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